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## 30 buildings to be tested for chemicals

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MORRISTOWN -- Some 30 buildings near a former dry cleaning business are to be tested by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency for possible chemical fumes, after groundwater beneath the buildings was found to be contaminated by dry cleaning chemicals.

"We have initiated an assessment of facilities where vapors from volatile chemicals could be entering homes or workplaces," EPA Regional Administrator Alan J. Steinberg said Friday. "The good news is once we identify the problem, it's relatively straightforward to fix. We can install ventilation systems when necessary to get rid of trapped fumes."

Dry cleaners use chemicals

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including tetrachloroethylene, which studies have found may cause cancer and other illnesses. In November, the EPA confirmed that these chemicals were in groundwater under the former VIP Cleaners at 89 Morris St. Monitoring equipment is to be installed in nine residential buildings and 21 commercial buildings to measure gases in soil and sample indoor air in the former dry cleaning facility.

-- Jan Barry


6931886

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